

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ACCRA 2943

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SUBJECT: EXAMPLE OF GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

1. IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS TO THE SEVERAL FIRMS IN GHANA WITH A U.S. INTEREST, WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM TWO FIRMS THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTIVITIES THAT MAY PROVIDE USEFUL EXAMPLES OF GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP. THE COMPANIES HAVE NO OBJECTION TO BEING IDENTIFIED.

2. MOBIL OIL GHANA LTD.

A. AS A CORPORATE CITIZEN MOBIL DONATED AS A BIRTHDAY GIFT A CHAIR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, BEGAN WHEN THE COUNTRY BECAME INDEPENDENT 21 YEARS AGO. NOW RETIRED, THY CHAIR IS SURVIVED BY THE SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION.

B. SINCE 1968, MOBIL HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF GHANA'S CULTURE. WORKING JOINTLY WITH THY ARTS COUNCIL OF GHANA, THY COMPANY ESTABLISHED IN 1968 THY NUCLEUS OF A PERMANENT NATIONAL COLLECTION OF ARTWORKS IN PAINT, STONE AND WOOD WHICH DEPICT ASPECTS OF GHANA'S CULTURE. WHILST ON A TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES, THY COLLECTION OF ARTWORKS WON THE "BUSINESS IN THY ARTS" AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CORPORATE SUPPORT OF THE ARTS DURING 1969. MOREOVER, TO PROMOTE
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A WORLD-WIDE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CULTURE OF THE PEOPLE OF GHANA, THY COMPANY ENTERED INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COLLEGE OF ART, UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI, ON "MIXING ART WITH OIL". THAT INSTITUTION AND THE COMPANY HAVE OVER THE YEARS PUBLISHED ANNUALLY ART THESES. THESE ART THESES ARE DISTRIBUTED WORLD-WIDE, I.E., TO MUSEUMS, ART INSTITUTIONS

ETC. EXAMPLE OF THESE INCLUDE "GESTURE: - LANGUAGE OF THY HAND" AND "TRADITIONAL POTTERY IN GHANA". THE FOREWORD OF THE CATALOGUE OF "THE ARTS OF GHANA" EXHIBITION (1978) SPONSORED BY THY MUSEUM OF CULTURAL HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES CREDITS MOBIL OIL GHANA LIMITED AS PROVIDING "CRUCIAL FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OF OUR WORK IN GHANA."

C. THROUGH THE OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALISATION CENTRE, GHANA, THE COMPANY HAS BEEN ASSISTING TO IMPROVE WORKERS' SKILLS IN CARPENTRY, MASONARY, PLUMBING, MOTOR MECHANICS AND IN ELECTRICITY. MOBIL IS PROVIDING FUNDS TO ESTABLISH AN ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT. THIS COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROJECT IS DESIGNED NOT ONLY TO IMPROVE WORKERS' SKILLS BUT TO HELP RESOLVE UNEMPLOYMENT.

D. UNDER A CAMP RISING SUN PROJECT, THY COMPANY AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE HAVE JOINTLY BEEN SPONSORING OVER THY PAST TEN YEARS A YOUNG GHANAIAAN TO REPRESENT GHANAIAAN YOUTH AT THE SCHOLASTIC CAMP IN THE UNITED STATES. THE CAMP IS AIMED AT DEVELOPING POTENTIAL LEADERS AND TO CREATE AN UNDERSTANDING AMONGST YOUTH FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD. THY SELECTION COVERS ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN GHANA.

3. VOLTA ALUMINIUM COMPANY LIMITED (VALCO) (OWNED 90 PERCENT BY KAISER AND 10 PERCENT BY REYNOLDS).

A. IN RESPONSE TO AN S.O.S. FROM THE GHANA WATER AND UNCLASSIFIED

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SEWARAGE CORPORATION, VALCO MADE ITS FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR THE OVERHAULING OF AN ELECTRIC MOTOR BELONGING TO THAT GOVERNMENT AGENCY. THE 26,000 KW MOTOR RATED AT 3,489 HORSE POWER WAS BROUGHT IN FROM THE G.W.S.C.'S WATER WORKS AT KPONG WHERE IT HAS BEEN OPERATING A PUMP TO SUPPLY WATER TO AREAS OF TEMA AND PARTS OF ACCRA. USING A SOLVENT, EMPLOYEES OF THY MOTOR SHOP THOROUGHLY CLEANED THY ROTOR AND THE WINDING; AND NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS FOR THY MOTOR TO BE READY FOR A NEW LEASE ON LIFE IS A REPLACEMENT BEARING. THIS WILL BE FITTED ON AT THE G.W.S.C.'S OWN WORKSHOP.

B. IN 1971, THY COMPANY ESTABLISHED THY VALCO FUND WITH A CORPORATE CONTRIBUTION OF DLS 300,000 TO FOSTER THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE IN GHANA. EACH YEAR, IT MAKES A MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION OF DOS 2000,000, AND WILL INCREASE THE AMOUNT IF COMPANY EARNINGS ARE STRONG. RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND IS VESTED IN THY MANAGING TRUSTEES, A GROUP OF LEADING GHANAIAANS, INDEPENDENT OF THY COMPANY. GRANTS FROM THY FUND HAVE GONE TO HOUSING FOR A HOSPITAL, FUNDS FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH AND SUPPORT FMR

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VARIOUS SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS. THROUGH 1978, THE VALCO FUND HAD RECEIVED DLS 1.5 MILLION FROM VALCO.

PRINCIPAL PROJECTS INCLUDE:

(I) GHANA INSTITUTE OF CLINICAL GENETICS: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE WAS ANNOUNCED IN MAY 1974 AND THY FIRST PHASE OF THE BUILDING FOR THY INSTITUTE WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THY COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH ON THE 18TH DECEMBER, 1975. SINCE THE PROJECT IS A JOINT EFFORT BY THE MANAGING TRUSTEES AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, AND IS EXPECTED TO BE FULLY INCORPORATED INTO THZ PUBLIC HEALTH SCHEME AND OPERATED AS A NATIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT, IT IS EXPECTED THAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF THE INSTITUTE WILL COME FROM INDIVIDUALS, CORPORATIONS, NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. APART FROM THY INITIAL INVESTMENT IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THY INSTITUTE'S BUILDING TO THE AMOUNT OF CEDIS 35,000.00 (CEDI ONE EQUALS DLS 0.87), THY MANAGING TRUSTEES HAVE PROVIDED A GRANT OF CEDIS 20,000.00 ANNUALLY SINCE 1974 TOWARDS THE ADMINISTRATION AND RUNNING EXPENSES OF THY INSTITUTE. THEY HAVE ALSO PROVIDED SOME EQUIPMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THY TREATMENT AND CARE OF SICKLE CELL PATIENTS.

(II) GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES: THY VALCO FUND HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITIES AND THZ GHANA MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR GRANTS TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT
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OR IMPROVEMENT OF TEACHING OR RESEARCH FACILITIES.

THE MANAGING TRUSTEES HAVE CONSIDERED THAT IT MIGHT BE MORE EFFECTIVE TO TAKE THY INITIATIVE TO GIVE A SIZEABLE GRANT TO EACH OF THE UNIVERSITIES TO BE APPLIED IN SELECTED AREAS OF NEED AND THUS MAKE A MORE ABIDING IMPACT THAN GIVING SMALL GRANTS, ONE AT A TIME.

(III). BLOOD BANK: QUITE OFTEN, THY MANAGING TRUSTEES ARE CONFRONTED WITH REVELATIONS OF SERIOUS INADEQUACIES IN SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT IN VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE, ESPECIALLY IN THY FIELDS OF HEALTH AND EDUCATION. ONE SUCH REVELATION OCCURRED WHEN A SENIOR STAFF MEMBER OF THY KORLE-BU BLOOD BANK APPROACHED THE VOLCO FUND FOR URGENT HELP. HE REPORTED THAT SOME VITAL ELEMENTS IN THY OPERATION OF THY BLOOD BANK HAD COMPLETELY RUN OUT OF STOCK AND THAT UNLESS SOMETHING WAS DONE IMMEDIATELY, A SERIOUS SITUATION WOULD ARISE. IN RESPONSE TO THIS APPEAL THY MANAGING TRUSTEES AGREED TO MAKE AVAILABLE AN AMOUNT OF CEDIS 75,000.00 TO PURCHASE FROM ABROAD, AND AIRFREIGHT INTO THE COUNTRY, THOSE OF THE ITEMS WHICH HAD TO BE OBTAINED TO ENABLE THY BLOOD BANK TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE SAFELY. SMITH

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